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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

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ISLE OF PINES GRAPEFRUIT SHIPMENTS

The total production of grapefruit in the Isle of Pines for the 1927-28 season has been estimated at no more than 100,000 crates, but shipments will not reach that figure unless there is an improvement in prices, according to a report received in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Vice Consul Sheridan Talbott at Nueva Gerona. Small consignments so far have not brought returns that would encourage further attempts to compete with Florida fruit and duty-free shipments from Porto Rico.

It appears that, considering the original investment, there has never been an adequate return from grapefruit growing in the Island, states Vice Consul Talbott. This is evidenced by the fact that the total acreage of citrus fruit has been reduced from eight or nine thousand acres at one time to no more than fifteen hundred at present.

Shipments of grapefruit to England will probably aggregate around 40,000 boxes for the present season. Inferior fruit sent to the British market has doubtless interferred with what might have been an appreciable development of the European trade.

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